

Individual Review Form

Proposal number: 2001-I210-2

Short Proposal Title: Discover the Flyway II

Ms. Kulakow wrote a letter of support for my CALFED grant proposal and I believe I wrote one for her first one. In addition, I have paid my visitor center staff to assist and participate in Yolo Basin Foundation events. My staff assisted Foundation staff with teacher training when they were first getting started.

I personally know Mr. Walter Yep, a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors. When he was employed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Mr. Yep was instrumental in assisting me with a number of CALFED initiatives of my own including my CALFED grant.

1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

The hypotheses in this proposal is based on a well-established fact that most teachers have poor training and experience in teaching science. Of particular note, is the lack of environmental education techniques, ecosystem learning and basic EE concepts. This proposal addresses a well-integrated and innovative approach to address the needs. The objectives of the project are well stated and established based on prior programs that this proposal seeks to expand.

1b1) Does the conceptual model clearly explain the underlying basis for the proposed work?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

The model proposed for this project was well researched and incorporated integrated learning opportunities, underserved audiences and demonstrates an excellent understanding of the local constituency (excellent statistics of student populations). The model encompasses a multi-level approach to education and incorporates a variety of methods, techniques and venues to reach the greatest possible audience. The multi-faceted approach satisfies many interest levels and supports the goals of CALFED, land management, public use and teacher/student needs. There is really something for everyone here.

1b2) Is the approach well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

Excellent job of designing this project, thoroughly researched and very well integrated. Each portion of the program supports the other. Clear, consistent messages presented with creative and compelling approaches. Accommodates all styles of learning and levels of interest; volunteers/docents, teachers, public events, ecosystem management and agency.

Adaptive management approaches are integrated to allow for flexible change and target specific needs and audiences.

1c1) Has the applicant justified the selection of research, pilot or demonstration project, or a full-scale implementation project?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

This proposal is an expansion and continuation of an existing full-scale project. Experimentation is inherent when one tries to accomplish this type of educational/interpretive project, but objectives remain the same. Techniques may change based on evaluations.

1c2) Is the project likely to generate information that can be used to inform future decision-making?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

The applicant seeks to reach the greatest audience possible with the various programs. The tremendous opportunities available at the Vic Fazio Wildlife Area for exploration and discovery for citizens of all ages will generate an informed constituency. Children will benefit from project-based learning, families will enjoy the resource together and everyone tends to support something they have learned to understand and appreciate.

The Teacher Watershed Academy is particularly in depth in its approach, with good basic scientific understanding of the ecosystem involved.

The Lecture Series appeals to those who seek to learn more in an informal setting. Lectures are relevant to current issues facing the watershed and Wildlife Area including management strategies for waterfowl and fish.

2a) Are the monitoring and information assessment plans adequate to assess the outcome of the project?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

The applicant clearly states that assistance will be required to fulfill this requirement and they plan to contract with a local professional in the field. I will base my opinion within the context of the rest of their proposal and state that I am assured this element will be satisfied. I think that given the size and scope of this proposal, some structure of monitoring is important to gauge success.

2b) Are data collection, data management, data analysis, and reporting plans well-described, - scientifically sound and adequate to meet the proposed objectives?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

This element was not extensively described, but given the nature of the proposal, it was adequate. All data is retained and will be used to assess the program throughout the life of the project.

3) Is the proposed work likely to be technically feasible?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

There is a lot in this proposal! The scope is considerable and the applicant has designed a multi-level approach to their achieving their objectives. However, it is so well designed and integrated that each element naturally flows one to the other. There does not appear to be any “waste” or filler. Each is described well and has specific outcomes. Each audience is addressed with fun and substantial programs. I think it is very likely to be feasible and successful.

4) Is the proposed project team qualified to efficiently and effectively implement the proposed project?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

Very well qualified team supplemented with outside professionals as needed. Each is qualified to accomplish the work and/or direct others to do so.

Provide a brief explanation of your summary rating:

I give this proposal/project an EXCELLENT RATING.

I am very impressed with this proposal and the way in which it addressed all requirements. It was easy to read and evaluate, I didn't have to hunt for information. Excellent research to back up the selection of programs to be offered and each program has well reasoned approaches and outcomes expected. Underserved audiences are included, the very young, professionals and those who have a serious interest. The educational component uses accepted

practices and innovative approaches. Excellent teacher training and on-going support to teachers is provided. The students benefit from project-based learning which has a high level of success for retention of information and modifying future behavior. Students engage in meaningful projects that benefit the watershed and management of the area. CALFED goals are met in a variety of ways using all the approaches.

Discover the Flyway II is a big program, but with such tight focus and defined goals, it is guaranteed success. The tremendous resource provided by the Vic Fazio Wildlife Area offers incredible opportunities that this proposal takes full advantage of. The Yolo Basin Foundation should be commended for “thinking big” and putting together a good package.

I especially liked the inclusion of evaluations, photos, poems.

All programs benefit from change and the applicant is well aware of what is needed to fully evaluate each element.

**Overall Evaluation
Summary Rating**

- ☐ Excellent
 - ☐ Very Good
 - ☐ Good
 - ☐ Fair
 - ☐ Poor
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